



TOWN of BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

Walnut Hills Cemetery

Trustees

*Abbe Cohen, Chairman
Joslin Ham Murphy*

Trustees

*Donalda Hingston
Arthur Reilly*

Walnut Hills Cemetery Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 22nd, 2013

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Trustees Present: Joslin Ham Murphy, Arthur Reilly, Donalda Hingston, Abbe Cohen (phone)

Staff Present: Erin Gallentine, Director of Parks and Open Space, Liz Scott, Park Clerk

Guests Present: William McDermott

1. Signed Deeds

2. Review opening of Ledge Meadows

The survey of the new section has been completed. Markers were installed and the map was entered into CAD which is the computer aided drafting system. E. Gallentine has signed off on the conversion into HMIS which is the cemetery database. Once this happens we will officially be able to sell lots and enter the data.

Originally, Sunday June 2nd, was chosen as a tentative date for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new section. J. Murphy suggested the possibility of tying the ceremony into the Memorial Day ceremony. E. Gallentine agreed that this would be a nice synergy of the two events coming together and we should consider Monday, May 27th, for the ceremony.

D. Hingston suggested reaching out to the Brookline Music School to see if they have musicians who would be interested in playing accompaniment music for the event. E. Gallentine agreed and will make that connection. It was also suggested that E. Gallentine connect with Bill McGroarty, Director of Veterans, to see if coordination of the ceremonies would be possible. E. Gallentine stated she will have a more complete outline of what the ceremony would entail, and an update from the Brookline Music School, for the March meeting.

3. Update on Fence Bids for Old Burying Ground

Bill Smith, one of the town's engineers, has done a preliminary inventory of the existing fence pieces. The inventory was a complex one and included a plan view, side view, footings and photo documentation. He is currently completing a request for proposal. E. Gallentine said although the progress is slow it is a labor intensive project and going smoothly.

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A. Cohen asked if the project would stay within the allotted budget of \$54,000. E. Gallentine said that if not they would have to prioritize which pieces to fix first and may have to complete the project in sections. A. Cohen suggested a congratulatory letter to D. Baldini and The Friends on raising the funds to have made this project conceivable. E. Gallentine and the Trustees agreed and thought the groundbreaking of the project may be the most appropriate time for this.

E. Gallentine informed the Trustees that one of the tomb walls at The Old Burying Ground is failing. Currently, it is being secured with 2 by 4's and is cautioned off. Structures North is a consulting engineer business who did initial assessments at the Old Burying Ground and will be doing an additional structural assessment of this failing wall. It needs to be a priority for safety reasons.

4. Review Damage from Hurricane Sandy and general winter conditions

One large tree and multiple large limbs and branches were lost during the storm. Town crews spent a lot of time clearing the cemetery of downed branches and debris. Given the severity of the storm throughout other affected states the damage Brookline experienced was minimal.

A. Cohen asked if the Cemetery break house took in water during the storm since it has had experienced flooding in the past. E. Gallentine stated that since structural drainage improvements were done in the break house during the renovation years ago flooding has not been an issue.

The roads throughout the Cemetery continue to deteriorate and E. Gallentine felt strongly that the roadway project commence this spring. One engineer's assessment was that milling and overlaying would not be option due to their condition and the best approach would be to replace in kind.

5. Process for filling positions for trustee vacancies

The Board of Selectman's office has an application that interested parties can complete and return. The subsequent steps would be an interview followed by an appointment at one of the Selectman meetings. There is usually a standard season for board appointments however, due to the fact there is not currently a quorum for meetings.

E. Gallentine met with Dick Leary, a former Brookline Town Administrator, in regards to the potential of becoming a Cemetery Trustee. He is knowledgeable with a respect for both the cemetery and people and would make for an ideal candidate. He currently serves as a trustee for Holy hood Cemetery. This would not be a conflict in interest issue because we do not compete with them for business nor do we receive goods or services from them.

D. Hingston asked if the newly appointed Trustees would be finishing the former Trustee's unexpired terms or starting new three year terms. E. Gallentine responded that P. Ostrander was about to be reelected so her replacement would be serving a full three year term. K. Begien's replacement will serve the remainder of her term.

6. New Business

J. Murphy shared with the Trustees a recent vote from the Board of Selectman that will allow for remote participation at future public meetings.

J. Murphy stated she was confused as to the reasoning behind the Trustees sudden resignation since the votes that took place that night went in their favor. Regardless, she stated, she valued their time and dedication to the cemetery and would like to send out a thank you note from the Trustees acknowledging their contributions. All the Trustees were in agreement with this.

7. Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6th.